2. An isolated polypeptide obtained by recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8, and which comprises the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of FIG. 2.

3. An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of FIG. 2.

4. A fragment of v-IL-6 that binds an interleukin-6 ("IL-6") receptor and comprises the amino acid sequence (residues 87-105 of SEQ ID NO:2) GFNEtsCLkKLadGFFEFE.

8. A fragment obtained from the v-IL-6 of claim **1** that can competitively inhibit the biological activity of IL-6 in a suitable assay system.

9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding consisting esentially of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and coding for v-IL-6, which is obtainable by recombinant expression of the DNA of human herpes virus type-8 (HHV-8).

10. An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and coding for a polypeptide, which is obtainable by recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8 and which comprises the amino acid sequence of FIG. 2.

11. An isolated nucleic acid consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO:2.

16. Testkit for the detection of v-IL-6 DNA or RNA, comprising a nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 as claimed in claim 11.

17. A pharmaceutical composition which may be used in treatment comprising as an active ingredient an IL-6-inhibiting